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School Committee Minutes 08/03/2004

ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2004

Present: Paul Schlichtman, Chair
Jeffrey Thielman, Vice Chair
Martin Thrope, Secretary;
Barbara Goodman
Joani LaMachia
Suzanne Owayda
Sue Sheffler

Also Present: Jim Hardy, MASC; Bill Allen, FMS

Note: There was no public notice of this meeting and no press or public present.

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm.

1. Committee Self Evaluation

The self-evaluation review was conducted by Jim Hardy of MASC. Mr. Hardy provided the committee with a composite report of the individual evaluation forms each member submitted. He highlighted areas of strength, areas of discussion and areas to build on. See the Summary of Self-Evaluation prepared by Mr. Hardy.

The following issues came out during the discussion:

- the committee should establish with the new superintendent what communications expectations are:

- .. no surprises: register questions prior to meetings*
- .. strategic planning and operationalizing it*
- .. communication to the community: clear message is needed*
- .. mission statement: use it a lot*
- .. critical to stay out of administration of the school system*

Following completion of the self-evaluation review, the committee recessed from 7:00 pm to 7:26 pm.

2. Public Participation

There were no requests for public participation.

3. School Committee Superintendent Search Focus Group

Bill Allen of Future Management Systems led the committee in a focus group as part of the superintendent search process. See the Focus Group Questions email. Members answered each of the questions on an index card and then engaged in a discussion of their answers for that question. Mr. Allen collected the written answers in order to compile the information into community description, candidate qualifications, etc.

Following completion of the focus group, the committee recessed from 8:54 pm to 9:02 pm.

4. Superintendent Search Subcommittee

Ms. Owayda reported on the subcommittee's work. Areas addressed were:

- .. timeline*
- .. process for choosing the Leadership Profile and Selection committees*

- .. application for those who wish to serve on these committees
- .. outreach

See documents distributed to the committee by Ms. Owayda

Though no motion had been made, the chair announced a motion by Ms. Owayda, seconded by Ms. LaMachia, to approve the timeline. The secretary asked the chair to let members make their own motions and seconded.

Moved by Ms. Owayda seconded by Ms. LaMachia: to approve the timeline. Unanimous Vote

It was requested that members communicate to Ms. Owayda any January scheduling conflicts and that they save the dates of January 4, 6, 11, and 13 for finalist interview.

Ms. Owayda then distributed a motion for choosing the two search committees; the seven member Leadership profile Committee and the fourteen member Selection Committee.

Moved by Ms. Owayda seconded by Ms. LaMachia:

To adopt the recommendation of the Superintendent Search Subcommittee (as described in the written motion which Ms. Owayda read in its entirety). Unanimous Vote

Discussion: Mr. Thielman stated that this was the first time the committee was seeing the motion. He said he had trouble with delegating the authority to choose the Selection Committee to the Superintendent Search subcommittee. He proposed that the selection be done by each school committee member in seniority order choosing a member of the selection committee. After round 1, the composition of the committee chosen thus far would be noted, and the school committee would then proceed to a second round, completing selection of the fourteen members. He continued that the options for school committee members if not pleased with the composition of the selection committee chosen by the subcommittee's method were to either vote no on the whole list of members or vote publicly to delete someone.

Ms. Owayda asked to speak to her motion, Ms. Owayda stated that the Superintendent Search Subcommittee has worked very hard, worked with FMS and has thought a lot about a fair method to choose the Selection Committee. This process is a deliberate attempt to make the Selection committee balanced with every constituency that wants a voice in choosing a new Superintendent, in addition to including the different minority groups in Arlington. It is also fair to SC members because each SC member has the opportunity to nominate 5 people and the Subcommittee will choose 2 of the nominations.

Mr. Thielman then stated that he does not think a member of the school committee should be on the selection committee.

MOVED by Mr. Thielman, seconded by Mr. Thrope; to amend Ms. Owayda's proposal as follows: 1) that the process of selecting members of the Selection Committee be by school committee seniority, and 2) that no school committee member be on the Selection Committee.

The Chair ruled that Mr. Thielman's change in the process is an alternate to the motion on the floor that would only be considered if that motion failed and that the elimination of a school committee member is an amendment. Mr. Thrope raised a point of order with respect to the Chair's ruling. The Chair rejected the point of order.

MOVED by Mr. Thrope, seconded by Mr. Thielman: To challenge the ruling of the Chair.

Roll Call vote: Ms. Goodman-no, Ms. LaMachia-no, Ms. Owayda-no, Ms. Sheffler-no, Mr. Thrope-yes, Mr. Thielman-yes, Mr. Schlichtman-no (2-5)

MOVED: by Mr. Thielman seconded by Mr. Thrope: To amend the proposal by removing the school committee member from the selection committee.

Discussion: Various members spoke to the pros and cons and to specifics of the process and the schedule.

Ms. Sheffler stated that one of the reasons the search for a new AHS principal was so successful was because there were many different perspectives on that selection committee. further stated that it is very important to include the SC perspective when doing the paper screen and the first screen of candidates.

MOVED by Mr. Thrope seconded by Mr. Thielman: To postpone until the difference of opinion is brought to the attention of the consultant to provide an opportunity for the consultant to issue a revised recommendation in light of the

conflict.

Roll Call vote: (On Mr. Thrope's motion to postpone) Ms. Goodman-no, Ms. LaMachia-no, Ms. Owayda-no, Ms. Sheffler-no, Mr. Thrope-yes, Mr. Thielman-yes, Mr. Schlichtman-no (2-5)

Mr. Thielman asked what would happen if more than one school committee member wished to be on the selection committee. He suggested a vote for the school committee representative on September 14th.

MOVED by Ms. Owayda seconded by Ms. Sheffler: To amend as follows: the selection of the school committee member to the Selection Committee will be made at the September 14th meeting. Interested members should submit their names prior to 10 am on September 10th to Mrs. Tassone.

Vote (on Ms. Owayda's amendment) 6-0-1 (Mr. Thrope abstain)

Mr. Thielman stated his opinion that the committee was dangerously close to a violation of Policy BDE, since a subcommittee was acting for the full committee.

Roll Call Vote: (on Ms. Owayda's main motion as amended): Ms. Goodman-yes, Ms. LaMachia-yes, Ms. Owayda-yes, Ms. Sheffler-yes, Mr. Thrope-no, Mr. Thielman-no, Mr. Schlichtman-yes (5-2)

Moved by Ms. Owayda seconded by Ms. Goodman: To use the application form as revised.
Unanimous vote.

Ms. Owayda stated that she would provide an amended copy.

An article is planned for next week's Arlington Advocate, as well as a letter from the Chair to the school community, both intended to encourage applicants for the two committees.

Ms. Goodman suggested looking at the categories for prospective members to make sure they are inclusive.

5. Warrant Votes

Moved by Ms. Sheffler seconded by Mr. Thielman to approved warrant #04176 in the amount of \$123,418.83.
Unanimous vote

Moved by Ms. Owayda seconded by Ms. LaMachia to approve warrant 04171 in the amount of \$467,146.94.
Unanimous vote

Moved by Ms. Goodman seconded by Ms. LaMachia to approve warrant #05011 in the amount of \$154,684.51.
Unanimous vote.

6. Subcommittee Reports

Budget Subcommittee

Mr. Thielman reported on the subcommittee's last meeting. See minutes of that meeting. Topics included:

1. Analysis of the budget process last year. The product will be a motion to the full committee for a process for the coming year.
2. Presentation by Charlie Foscett. There is now a legal provision for multiple stabilization funds, allowing the Foscett proposal. There was considerable discussion at the subcommittee about the Foscett proposal, including service standards.
3. Information provided by after school programs. The Hard program numbers as presented do not include an allocation for operating expenses, so that program is not making a profit.

The next meeting of the subcommittee is scheduled for August 4th from 3:00 – 4:30 pm.

Policies and Procedures Subcommittee

Mr. Thrope offered the following for a first reading. See the subcommittee minutes.

BEDG

BEDG-E

KCC

The subcommittee is also working on a calendar of action events drawn from policies prepared by Ms. Owayda. The subcommittee will continue its review of Sections C and D of the Policy Book. Various policies are now due for second reading and full committee approval.

The next meeting of the subcommittee is scheduled for August 4th from 2:00 0- 3:00 pm

Moved by Ms. LaMachia, seconded by Mr. Thielman to adjourn. Unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 pm

Respectfully submitted

Martin Thrope, Secretary